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ON
PONYTAIL CAP

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PONYTAIL CAP

BACKGROUND

Generally caps or hats are worn by wearers while engaging in outdoor activities as the bill of the cap or hat provides shading for the eyes of the wearer from the sun. Numerous types of caps have been available for a number of years having various features in order to fit a variety of head sizes and/or hairstyles. For those individuals that have long hair, it is common for them to bundle the hair into one or more "ponytails." However, when individuals wear a ponytail, it is difficult for them to wear caps, as the ponytail interferes with the comfort and/or fitment of the cap on the head of the individual. Accordingly, various caps have been developed which utilize openings on the back or sides of the cap to allow the ponytail through the opening so that the cap better fits the head of the wearer. However, these caps and hats have not been altogether desirable from an aspect of being comfortably fitted to the head of the wearer. Also, the traditional bill of the cap is not sufficiently large to provide adequate shading of the eyes and/or face of the wearer.

SUMMARY

Exemplary embodiments relate to caps having a front, back, and side portions.

- 5 The cap also includes an inverted U-shaped opening on the back portion of the cap. The cap includes a visor that is obliquely coupled to a substantial portion of the body to provide adequate shading for an individual user. The cap also includes an elastic sweatband coupled to the lower peripheral edge of the body wherein the sweatband

includes an elastomeric section. The elastomeric section allows the circumference of the cap to expand so as to accommodate users having different sized heads' hairstyles. Accordingly, an individual wearing a ponytail can comfortably wear the cap. In one exemplary embodiment, the cap may include ribbons that are coupled to the lower edge of the cap adjacent to the opening on the back of the cap that may be utilized for tying the hair for decorative purposes and providing additional securement of the cap on the wearer's head.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a side view of an exemplary embodiment of cap;

Figure 2 is a top view of the cap shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a bottom view of the cap shown in Figure 1; and

Figure 4 is a rear view of the cap shown in Figure 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The detailed description set forth below in connection with the appended drawings is intended as a description of exemplary embodiments and is not intended to represent the only forms in which the exemplary embodiments may be constructed and/or utilized.

Turning to the drawings, Figure 1 is directed to one exemplary embodiment of a ponytail cap **100**. The cap **100** is composed of a bill or visor **104** and a main body, which is composed of a plurality of gores **101, 102, 103, 201, 202, 203**. While the cap **100** of Figure 1 has six gores, those familiar in the art will appreciate that the number

of gores may be varied. That is, a plurality of gores may be used to form a hemispherical cap **100**. In an alternate embodiment, the gores **101**, **102**, **103**, **201**, **202**, **203** may also include air vents (not shown) for ventilation purposes.

As those skilled in the art will appreciate, a plurality of materials may be used to form the gores of the cap. For instance, in one exemplary embodiment, multi-axially stretchable fabric may be used to form the gores in the cap. In another exemplary embodiment, unilaterally stretchable fabric may be used to form the gores of the cap. In yet another exemplary embodiment, a combination of multi-axially stretchable and unilaterally stretchable fabric may be used to form the gores of the cap.

As shown in Figure 1, the cap **100** also includes a visor **104**. The visor **104** is coupled to the lower peripheral edge of the main body. According to one exemplary embodiment, the visor **104** wraps substantially around the periphery of the cap **100** as shown in Figure 4. In an alternate embodiment, the visor **104** may be coupled to a portion of the cap **100**. As shown in Figure 2, the visor **104** has a substantially large surface area and has a generally oval outline. Furthermore, the visor **104** has curved sides that provide additional shading for the wearer's face. As shown in Figure 1, the visor is obliquely coupled to the main body of the cap **100**. That is, the top edge of the visor **104** extends at a downward angle from the lower peripheral edge of the cap **100**. In alternate embodiments, the visor **104** may extend from the cap such that the visor **104** is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the cap **100**.

As shown in Figure 4, a passageway **106** is positioned at the back of the cap **100** and is sized so that a ponytail can extend through the passageway **106** when the cap **100**

is fitted onto the wearer's head. Also, as shown in Figure 4 in one exemplary embodiment, the cap includes ribbons **105** that are adjacently affixed to the passageway **106**. The ribbons **105** can be utilized for tying a bow or gathering of hair that extends through the passageway **106**. As shown in the figures, the ribbons **105** are permanently
5 affixed to the main body of the cap **100**. According to one exemplary embodiment, the ribbons **105** may be reversibly attached to the cap by various means such as, but not limited to, Velcro or snap enclosures. In another exemplary embodiment, the ribbons **105** and the visor **104** may be made from material having the same color. In alternate embodiments, the ribbons **105** and the visor **104** may have different colors.

10 As shown in Figure 3, a headband **300** is coupled to the lower periphery of the cap's main body. In one exemplary embodiment, the headband **300** may be of rather thin dimensions, but those skilled in the art will appreciate that the headband **300** may have varying dimensions. Also, the headband may be a one-, two-, or three-component band. In one exemplary embodiment, the headband **300** is a three-component elastic
15 band as described in U.S. Patent Application No. 10/637,783, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. In another exemplary embodiment, the headband **300** is a single, unfolded layer. In yet another exemplary embodiment, the headband **300** may be folded.

As shown in Figure 3, the headband **300** terminates at the opening of the
20 passageway **106**. An elastic band **200** then spans the opening of the passageway **106**. That is, as shown in Figure 3, the headband **300** and the elastomeric band **200** are separate pieces. In another exemplary embodiment, the headband **300** and the elastic

band **200** may be a unitary structure.

The elastic band **200** allows for the expansion of the circumference of the cap **100** so that the cap **100** fits comfortably on the wearer of the hat. Also, the elastic nature of the elastic band **200** ensures that the cap **100** is snugly fit on the wearer's head. Because the elastic band **200** is stretchable, the circumference of the cap **100** may be enlarged to accommodate varying user's head sizes. Additionally, given the elastic nature of the band **200**, the band **200** may be moved downward to increase the opening size of the passageway **106**. Accordingly, the cap **100** may be securely fitted onto the wearer's head as the top of the passageway **106** and the top of the band **200** may securely engage the user's hair and/or ponytail.

While exemplary embodiments of the cap have been described herein, it is recognized that additional variations may be devised without parting from the invented concept.